

STATSPEC

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4 April 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

ATTENTION : DDI Planning Officer

SUBJECT : Study of translation Services

REFERENCES : a) Memo DDI Planning Officer to [redacted] dtd. 14 Mar 69
 b) Exec Dir memo for DDI, dtd. 16 Oct 68
 c) DDI memo for Exec Dir, dtd. 27 Sep 68
 d) IG Survey of [redacted] August 1968, Recommendation #7

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1. [redacted] concurs in recommendations 1, 2, 4, and 5: they, in fact, describe our current operational procedures. [redacted] does not concur, however, with the main operational change proposed in recommendation 3 which, in substance, proposes that the exploitation of foreign language publications should be conducted by non-staff personnel.

2. At our overseas bureaus, where the selection criteria is limited to significant foreign developments, and where our staff officers work directly with our non-staff personnel, and thus can immediately review their selections, this mode of operation works, and works well. However, I consider any wide scale extension of this concept to our domestic program through a "combination of [redacted] and Headquarters" as patently impractical and substantively undesirable. It has been done in a few instances, and can possibly be done in a few others where the services of just the right man for the job can be obtained. We have found such conditions to occur only rarely and to be long lasting. It is therefore an over-simplification to suggest such a concept of operations for a task the size of our overall domestic exploitation program. In the attachment I have expanded on these views and have likewise commented on other portions of the study with which we differ.

3. As you know, this study was undertaken in response to an IG recommendation which was drafted at a time when it was uncertain that [redacted] would get the slots necessary to expand translation capability either abroad or at headquarters. In view of the IG's concern for our lack of sufficient staff to more carefully supervise contract personnel, we all recognized that an expansion of the [redacted] effort would be a poor substitute for the restoration of headquarters capability. Now that the 24 staff positions have been restored, I believe we should do no more than keep this much less desirable alternative in reserve against a day when no better solution were available.

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4. Accordingly, I recommend that the study be considered a DDI working paper only, and that the Executive Director be informed:

- . of our completion of the study (pursuant to para 2 of Exec Dir memo to DDI of 16 Oct 68);
- . of our conclusion that both security and qualitative constraints preclude a broader application of the [REDACTED] concept when other alternatives are possible; and, STATSPEC
- . of our plan to apply the [REDACTED] concept whenever special circumstances permit. STATSPEC

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25X1A Attachment: [REDACTED] comments on DDI Planning Staff [REDACTED]

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JJW:PAB:msb

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